

Household Food Security in the United States, 2001

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Introduction

Since 1995, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has collected information annually on food spending, food access and adequacy, and sources of food assistance for the U.S. population. The information is collected in yearly food security surveys, conducted as a supplement to the nationally representative Current Population Survey (CPS). A major impetus for this data collection is to provide information about the prevalence of food insecurity and hunger in U.S. households. USDA reports in the series *Measuring Food Security in the United States* have summarized the findings of this research for each year from 1995 to 2000. (See appendix B for background on the development of the food security measures and a list of the reports.)

This report updates the national statistics on food security, using data collected in the December 2001 food security survey. The report also updates the statistical series initiated in last year's report on household food spending, how food-insecure households use Federal and community food assistance, and the numbers of households using community food pantries and emergency kitchens. These statistics provide additional insight into the nature of food insecurity and how low-income households meet their food needs.

Unless otherwise noted, statistical differences described in the text are significant at the 90 percent confidence level.